

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT:
Todd Kirrane, Transportation Administrator
Department of Public Works
Phone: 617-730-2177

Brookline Announces Enhancements and Updates for Parking Lots and Meters

BROOKLINE, MA - Brookline's Chair of Selectmen, Neil Wishinsky, is pleased to announce that the Town of Brookline is rolling out parking pay-by-cell technology in the next couple weeks, for all parking lots and meters. Chairman Wishinsky noted that "customers will soon be able to use the same cell phone-based mobile app, called Passport, which is already being used in Newton, Boston, Salem, and Springfield." The Town will announce when this program is launched for the Town of Brookline on our website and through social media pages.

In addition to the ease of use with pay-by-cell, customers will now also be able to relax a little longer with an extra hour of parking available in the Centre Street East and Fuller Street parking lots, where you can now park up to four hours at a time. Parking at the median in Coolidge Corner is now extended to three hours. Curbside meters in Coolidge Corner will remain at a two hour limit so that parking continues to be available to more customers in this busiest area of Town. Outside of Coolidge Corner, curbside meter parking will extend to three hours.

Many of these changes were in response to requests from the Chamber of Commerce, the Coolidge Corner Merchants Association, and a working group that included restaurants, retailers, service businesses from different commercial areas, as well as residents from the Transportation Board and Economic Development Advisory Board. Damian Dowling of The Abbey restaurant in Washington Square said "The working group used parking utilization data from the Town, but we also shared our customers' experience and discussed their changing needs throughout the day and in different commercial areas. We made recommendations about pricing and length of parking time to try and have available parking when customers need it most. We recognized that we will probably want to revisit some of these changes in the future, just as our businesses continue to try and better meet our customers' needs. We also asked the Town to make parking easier to use and more predictable – for example, customers complained that they didn't know which meters went to 6pm and which went to 8pm. Nothing is worse than a surprise parking ticket after a night out."

Up until recently, some of our curbside parking meters ran until 6 pm, and others ran to 8pm. In response to merchants' requests, parking meter times are now consistent throughout town, going to 8pm. One exception to this is the parking lot at Town Hall which will continue to be free after 6pm Monday through Thursday, when volunteer-led community meetings often begin at 5pm and continue late into the night.

Our Department of Public Works recently began fixing and replacing meters as part of a multi-phase effort to improve the user experience and to prepare for the roll out of pay-by-cell technology over the next couple weeks. Within the next month, DPW will replace 340 coin-only curbside meters in Brookline Village with ones that accept credit cards. In the interim, the

meters that have not been replaced will continue to accept quarters and our multi-space meters in parking lots will continue to accept quarters, cash, or credit cards. All curbside and multi-space meters will accept pay-by-cell technology regardless of meter type.

As part of the Override budget plan adopted by Town Meeting and authorized by Brookline's voters in May of 2015, a several million dollar package of non-tax revenue increases were set in place. \$850,000 of that package was revenue from parking meter rates. The rate increased from \$1/hour to \$1.25/ hour. Always double-check meters and signage for rates and available length of parking time before use. A full list of the new parking rates and hours at different locations is available through the Town's website at www.brooklinema.gov.

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